

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 AF-06 EA-06 NEA-10 /125 W

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R 291449Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8887

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 5507

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: GOV REACTION TO KISSINGER STATEMENTS ON ENERGY
CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: THE INITIAL REACTION OF GOV SOURCES TO SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S PARIS SPEECH HAS BEEN MODERATELY FAVORABLE. THEY
REGARDED THE SPEECH AS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, THOUGH NOT
CONTAINING ALL THAT THE GOV WOULD LIKE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED
MEETING MAY 28 WITH VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS IN THE OFFICE OF THE
MINISTER
OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO REQUEST THEIR
COMMENTS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL RESUMPTION OF THE PREPCON
TWO OF THE OFFICIALS, DRS. JULIO GIL AND EDUARDO SOTO, ARE THE
PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS TO DR. MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO, VENEZUELAN
REPRESENTATIVE AT THE PARIS PREPCON, AND ARE THEREFORE WELL
INFORMED ON GOV VIEWS.

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2. THE OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THAT THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH WOULD

HAVE TO BE STUDIED CAREFULLY BEFORE THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO COMMENT FULLY, BUT THEY VOLUNTEERED THE OBSERVATION THAT THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS FOR RESUMING THE PREPCON CONSTITUTED A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD, EVEN THOUGH NOT CONTAINING ALL THAT THE GOV WANTS. THEY CHARACTERIZED IT AS A "POSITIVE BUT PARTIAL RESPONSE" TO GOV VIEWS AT THE PARIS PREPCON. DR. GIL OBSERVED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS COULD NOT BE DECIDED ARBITRARILY BY THE HOST COUNTRY (FRANCE) AND THE IEA ON THE BASIS OF PRESUMED INTEREST. GIL WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE US FORMULA FOR PARTICIPATION WOULD SUFFICE WITH RESPECT TO SELECTING REPRESENTATION FROM THE THIRD WORLD. HE SUGGESTED THAT REPRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION ON COMMODITIES SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE GROUP OF 77.

3. DR. GIL PRESUMED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE THREE COMMISSIONS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY, A GLOBAL COMMISSION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUPERVISE THE WORK OF THE OTHER GROUPS. THE COMMISSIONS COULD WORK SIMULTANEOUSLY BUT THEIR WORK COULD NOT BE DIVORCED ONE FROM ANOTHER EITHER IN SUBSTANCE OR IN ADHERENCE TO SOME SORT OF GENERAL SCHEDULE.

4. DR. SOTO SUGGESTED THAT THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WAS THE SELECTION OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED RATHER THAN HOW THEY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. GIL SUGGESTED THAT ONE IMPORTANT TOPIC APPEARED TO BE MISSING FROM THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS--MAINTENANCE OF VALUE OF ASSETS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE REACTION REPORTED ABOVE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF GOV OPINION AT HIGHER LEVELS. PUBLIC REACTION IN PARTICULAR MAY BE TEMPERED, HOWEVER, BY UNEASINESS OVER THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON OPEC IN OTHER PARTS OF HIS SPEECH, ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCES INDICATED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CONTEXT OF THE SPEECH WOULD AFFECT ITS CONTENT. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER REACTION AS IT DEVELOPS.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA05507
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750188-0516
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975057/aaaaafka.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOV REACTION TO KISSINGER STATEMENTS ON ENERGY CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, US, VE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (GIL, JULIO), (SOTO, EDUARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006